

THE SPHERE OF WOMEN

By Clarence R. Anderson.

The social rights and duties of women in the civilized world today, is a question much in dispute. The increased intelligence, the political achievements, and the industrial accomplishments of the weaker sex in the last two decades, coupled with their advanced social standing, all of



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which has resulted from their constant agitation and contention for more consideration in this man-made world, has aroused all thinking people of the present age. To what this great change in the sphere of women may be conducive, is a question of prodigious sociological import.

The progress of women is one of the most important factors in our contemporary civilization. It is not collateral, but concomitant; not incidental, but essential. No race, no nation, can far advance if its women are

held in subjection. That race, or that nation, which attempts to cope with other races, or to build a grand and noble empire, and at the same time curtails the advancements of its women, will hardly have begun to rise to the heights to which it aspires, ere the degredation of its suppressed women will become as a weight upon its neck, growing heavier as that race, or that nation advances, until the increased weight will finally drag back to the bottom, the aspirers, who were but mere dreamers of a great future.

The masculine and feminine characters shown respectively by man and woman are not the result of fundamental differences in their maleness and femaleness, but are directly traceable to heredity and environments. Woman exists in this man-made world of practical and scientific activity, but is excluded from full participation therein. Certain organic conditions and historical incidents have enclosed her in habits, and enshrouded her with customs which she neither can nor will fracture and destroy. These same conditions and incidents have set up in the mind of man, an attitude toward her, which renders her almost as alien to man's interests and practices as she would be were she spacially separated from them.

Let us look back for a few moments to primeval times. We see man, the strong protector of woman. We see him hunting in order to obtain food on which woman, who was dependent upon him, might subsist. We see him at war. We find man's most